

Application No. 10/799,947

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Reply dated 6 December 2005

Responsive to Office Action mailed on 4 October 2005

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous claims with the following complete set of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable diaper having a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions and comprising:
an absorbent assembly having an interior surface and an exterior surface and laterally opposing longitudinally extending breathable side flaps, each side flap having longitudinally opposing ends and a longitudinally extending proximal edge, each side flap being attached adjacent to its ends to the interior surface of the absorbent assembly and having a longitudinally extending elastic gathering member attached adjacent to its proximal edge such that when allowed to relax, the elastic gathering member contracts and lifts the proximal edge away from the interior surface of the absorbent assembly, thereby raising the side flap to form a breathable side barrier; and
a chassis attached to the exterior surface of the absorbent assembly and having an interior surface and an exterior surface and including a water-impermeable backsheet, wherein at least a portion of the chassis is extensible and wherein laterally opposing portions of the chassis in the crotch region are folded laterally inward to overlap the respective side flaps and are attached to the respective side flaps.
2. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the extensible portion of the chassis includes at least two distinct laterally extending altered embossed regions each containing a pattern of generally longitudinally oriented alternating ridges and valleys created by a deformation an embossment of the portion of the chassis and also containing an unaltered unembossed region located between the altered embossed regions, such that the portion of the chassis can be laterally extended to a given extent with the application of relatively less force than that required to laterally extend the same portion of the chassis to the same given extent before the deformation embossment.
3. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein at least a the extensible portion of the chassis underlying underlies the absorbent assembly in one of the waist regions and is laterally extensible.

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4. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein ~~at least a~~ the extensible portion of the chassis is disposed in one of the waist regions and is laterally extensible to a greater degree than at least a portion of the chassis in the crotch region.
5. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the laterally opposing laterally inwardly folded portions of the chassis ~~in the crotch region are folded laterally inward to overlap the respective side flaps and are attached to~~ less far laterally inward than the respective proximal edges of the respective side flaps and thereby leave uncovered respective exposed portions of the respective side flaps adjacent to the proximal edges.
6. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent assembly is attached to the chassis in a cruciform pattern of attachment.
7. (Previously Presented) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 further comprising cohesive fastening elements disposed on both an interior surface of the disposable diaper and an exterior surface of the disposable diaper such that the front waist region may be fastened over the back waist region or the back waist region may alternatively be fastened over the front waist region to encircle a waist and a leg of a wearer.
8. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent assembly has a length smaller than a length of the chassis.
9. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent assembly includes an absorbent core and a water-impermeable lower covering sheet disposed exteriorly of the absorbent core.
10. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 9 wherein the absorbent assembly also includes a water-impermeable bottom sheet disposed between the lower covering sheet and the absorbent core.

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11. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent assembly includes an absorbent core storage component.
12. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 11 wherein the absorbent core storage component contains no airfelt.
13. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 11 wherein the absorbent assembly includes an absorbent core acquisition component.
14. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 13 wherein the absorbent core acquisition component has a length smaller than a length of the absorbent core storage component and is disposed longitudinally offset from the absorbent core storage component.
15. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 1 wherein the chassis includes at least one fastening element adapted for fastening the front waist region and the back waist region together to encircle a waist and legs of a wearer.
16. (Original) A disposable diaper having a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions and comprising:
an absorbent assembly having an interior surface and an exterior surface and laterally opposing longitudinally extending breathable side flaps, each side flap having longitudinally opposing ends and a longitudinally extending proximal edge, each side flap being attached adjacent to its ends to the interior surface of the absorbent assembly and having a longitudinally extending elastic gathering member attached adjacent to its proximal edge such that when allowed to relax, the elastic gathering member contracts and lifts the proximal edge away from the interior surface of the absorbent assembly, thereby raising the side flap to form a breathable side barrier; and
a chassis attached to the exterior surface of the absorbent assembly and having an interior surface and an exterior surface and including a water-impermeable backsheet and at least one fastening element for fastening the front waist region and the back waist region

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together to encircle a waist and legs of a wearer, wherein the fastening element is adapted to be openable and refastenable.

17. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 16 wherein the fastening element includes an adhesive tape tab.
18. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 16 wherein the fastening element includes a cohesive fastening element.
19. (Original) The disposable diaper of Claim 16 wherein the fastening element includes a mechanical fastener adapted to engage a nonwoven.
20. (Currently Amended) A disposable diaper having a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions and comprising:
an absorbent assembly having an interior surface and an exterior surface and laterally opposing longitudinally extending breathable side flaps, each side flap having longitudinally opposing ends and a longitudinally extending proximal edge, each side flap being attached adjacent to its ends to the interior surface of the absorbent assembly and having a longitudinally extending elastic gathering member attached adjacent to its proximal edge such that when allowed to relax, the elastic gathering member contracts and lifts the proximal edge away from the interior surface of the absorbent assembly, thereby raising the side flap to form a breathable side barrier, wherein the absorbent assembly comprises an absorbent core storage component containing no airfelt; and
a chassis attached to the exterior surface of the absorbent assembly and having an interior surface and an exterior surface and including a water-impermeable backsheet,
wherein laterally opposing portions of the chassis in the crotch region are folded laterally inward to overlap the respective side flaps and are attached to the respective side flaps.